

## Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, California

DDJC's Quality Shipping Quality Circle was honored at Defense Logistics Agency headquarters on December 2 for having the most suggestions approved. The six-member group, who works in the Packing and Shipping Branch at Tracy, had eight suggestions adopted in 1998.

DLA Director Lt. Gen. Henry Glisson presented the award in a ceremony recognizing DLA's most outstanding personnel in several different categories. The Quality Circle is composed of Frank Rojas, Donald Hamilton, Wayne Butler, Bud Hagans, Tim Travis and Diana Escobar.

This is the second time in three years the team was recognized at the DLA Employee Recognition Program for having the most suggestions approved. In 1997 their Quality Circle had 15 suggestions approved.

"We have 15 suggestions approved already for 1999," said Rojas. "We think we have a pretty good chance at having the most suggestions approved again."

The group has been together since 1993 and meets every Friday to discuss improvements to their work area.

Among the suggestions adopted were: installation of mirrors at cargo doors; painting location numbers on overhead runners in Whse 16; applying non-skid coatings on ramps; applying non-slip surfacing in the FedEx loading area; placing multi-colored fire extinguisher placards above the fire extinguishers; replace metal security seals on truck doors with plastic seals; attaching two pallets together to accommodate oversized material being shipped; using larger, bolder letters for packing labels.

The cash awards the group received for their ideas ranged from \$125 to \$250 for each suggestion.



*The Quality Shipping Quality Circle from DDJC that earned DLA recognition for having eight suggestions adopted, the most from an individual or group in 1998 are pictured from left: Bud Hogans, Tim Travis, Frank Rojas, Donald Hamilton, Diana Escobar and Wayne Butler.*

## Sal Guillen on US Postal Service Stamp

Sal Guillen, the DDJC Material Handling Equipment drivers license certifier joined the ranks of the Beatles, Martin Luther King, the Green Bay Packers, Roger Maris, and several other major personalities and events of the sixties. The occasion was a special issue 33

cent U.S. Postal Service stamp series that celebrates the 1960s.

Guillen was pictured in a classic 1968 photo from Vietnam that shows him jumping out of a helicopter hovering a few feet above the ground. At that time he was a corporal in the Army's air cavalry.

"It is a great honor to have that picture selected to represent that era," said Guillen.

A combat photographer captured the action on film that was widely used to depict combat action dur-



ing the Vietnam War. An 8 x 10 faded copy of the photo hangs in his office at the MHE Training Center.

"That picture pops up all over," noted Guillen. "It is in history books, Army recruiting material, and the Veteran's Bureau hall of records." Guillen learned of the stamp when Christian Fox, a stamp collector presented him with a copy of the special issue stamp encased in a glass framed display.

Fox, who works in the Warehousing Division, gets advanced notification of stamps prior to issue. He remembered seeing the photo hanging at Guillen's desk and talking to him about it.

## Unusual Partnership Characterizes San Joaquin Land Use

One of DLA's assets you will not find in the annual report is 460 acres of prime farmland in Northern California's agricultural rich San Joaquin Valley. The parcel of land is part of Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin and produces tons of walnuts, baby lima beans, sugar

beets, safflower and other crops annually.

The land is leased to Philip Martin Farms, which also manages another 640 acres nearby. The lease came about when groundwater contaminated with common cleaning solvents stored in 55-gallon drums at the depot during the 1960's seeped into the groundwater just below the earth's surface. Irrigation pumps were pulling the plume of contamination away from an air stripping tower that separates the contaminants from the water. In 1991 the state of California stepped in to shut down agricultural water pumps on the land. Ultimately the property was purchased for \$6.5 million in 1993 by DLA's real estate agent, the Army Corps of Engineers, who manage the lease.

"I call it a maintenance lease," said James Roberts, a DDJC engineer who works on real estate issues. The tenant keeps the weeds knocked down and pests under control. DDJC's security force patrols the property, and depot environmentalists monitor another air stripper built in 1998 on the annex to speed the groundwater cleanup. The lease stipulates that groundwater cannot be used for irrigation. Water must come from elsewhere.

Martin, whose family began farming the area 70 years ago, has about 7,000 walnut trees on 150 acres. The other 310 acres are used for row crops. In 1999, he grew 200 acres of safflower and 100 acres of baby lima beans. In 2000, he intends to on plant sugar beets in addition to the safflower and lima beans.

"You just have to sit down at the computer with a spreadsheet to see what works," noted Martin.

Martin sees crop selection not just a matter of what is the most productive. He also takes into consideration what is good for the land. Instead of burning branches pruned from the walnut trees, the branches are shredded and worked into the soil.

Walnuts from the 7,000 trees are sold to a processor who shells the nuts and markets them to foreign countries notably Japan.

"Walnuts were very good a few years ago," said Martin. "The last two years, however, they were terrible." He cites a



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## More from DDJC

# DLA Director Opened Warehouse 28 Addition



*DLA Director LTG Henry Glisson officiated at the ribbon cutting ceremony last December for the opening of the hazardous storage addition at DDJC. The 68, 000 square feet addition doubled the former capacity of the building and enables all hazardous items to be stored in this warehouse marking a significant milestone as the depot transitions to its new alignment under Distribution Center 2000. Pictured from left at the Whse 28 addition ribbon cutting are; David Ennis, Director of Mission Operations; Joan Cannon, Chief of the Hazardous Secure Branch; COL John Marx, Depot Commander; LTG Henry Glisson, DLA Director; COL Michael Walsh, Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers' District Sacramento; AZ Gonzales, ACOE resident inspector; and Rod Tatman, Chief of the Facilities Engineering Division.*

## World Environment Day

By resolution, the United Nations General Assembly on December 15, 1972, designated June 5 as World Environment Day. That day was chosen because it was the opening day of the Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm. This later led to the establishment of the UN Environment Program (UNEP). Twenty years thereafter, the Assembly convened the Council on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, where nations came together to rekindle the hopes of the 1972 Conference and to take up the challenges of a viable and equitable balance between environment and development and a sustainable future for the earth and its people.

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record crop coupled with Japan suffering economic woes, which consequently drove up the price they had to pay. The result was plenty of walnuts with few customers.

Martin hopes to continue farming the depot annex, adding different crops and building business relationships with various agencies and regulators involved in the lease.

"I sure know more about the government and groundwater remediation than I ever did before," added Martin.

The arrangement is a 'win-win' situation for both Martin and the depot. Martin keeps the land in production while leasing the property and thereby reducing the government costs of being landlord. At the same time DDJC is able to continue cleaning up the environment.

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program includes 21 different items and commodities, including cardboard, paper, metals, lead-acid batteries, glass, plastics, wood, oils, and antifreeze. Through its recycling program, the Depot reduced its solid waste generation by 10,017 tons from FY 1997-99. The National Partnership for Reinventing Government designated the Depot as a reinvention laboratory. In partnership with Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation and Palletronix, Inc, the Depot developed a collapsible, reusable cardboard shipping container, called the Pollution Prevention Pack or P2 Pack, which military customers can readily return for reuse. The Depot also initiated the use of 100% recycled content cardboard shipping boxes and innovative packaging materials such as *Sus Wrap* and *Enviomold*, which the military can use in place of foam. The Depot has also won two vice presidential "Hammer" awards and a White House "Closing the Circle" award in recognition of its recycling program.



**DDOO,  
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aircraft engines are being sent to DDOO for turn-in, it makes sense to treat the receipt differently from maintenance shipments. DDOO entered into an agreement with the local DRMO to receive daily shipments so that engines and other large aircraft components bound for disposal did not have to take up scarce storage space on the depot side. In another customer focused initiative, DDOO worked out a process whereby engines returned to the depot for turn-in had funds quickly loaded to maintenance accounts to ease the purchase of new parts.

At Tinker Air Force Base, you might receive an unusual suggestion, "Meet me at Hollywood and Vine." Now to the rest of the world, Hollywood and Vine is a famous intersection in the movie capital of the world, where, during Hollywood's golden age, it was the home of many famous nightclubs, theaters and restaurants. At Tinker, an invitation to meet at Hollywood and Vine refers to an intersection inside Building 3001. Inside this mile long, immense building filled with repair shops, sophisticated machinists tools and many aircraft in various states of being rebuilt, it refers to an intersection as well. It is a flag lined corridor leading from the entrance of the Air Logistics Center to a display area where visitors are often taken for a brief look at the facility.

On a visit to any DDC depot, one might have certain expectations about what one will find. Some negative perceptions might persist from the old days of overstockage and underutilization of equipment and personnel. What one sees today, however, is a new reality. At DDOO, for example, one is struck with the many examples of how the depot now interacts with its customers and supports customer needs. The relationship DDOO has to its customers, both on and off the installation is a seamless one, one with no definite beginning and end. It is, in every way, an interactive partnership between two agencies that work out what is needed and find ways to accomplish the work required. Meet me at "Hollywood and Vine" and I'll show you how it all happens.